

Board of Directors

Linda Proctor-Downing – President (Executive Director) and Governing Board Member

Linda Proctor-Downing serves as President of the Board and has served on the Board since its inception. Ms. Proctor-Downing is the founder and Executive Director of the Borrower. Prior to her employment with the Borrower, Ms. Proctor-Downing was employed by Phoenix Union School District-Carl Hayden Community High School Center for Agribusiness, Equine Science and Natural Resource Management's magnet program as its Director. Ms. Proctor-Downing has also served as the Agribusiness Consultant for Arizona State University. Ms. Proctor-Downing researched and co-authored the Arizona Agribusiness Curriculum for the Arizona State Department of Education in conjunction with Arizona State University. She has consulted in teacher training to assist in the development of statewide and national agribusiness programs, and improve public relations, resulting in increased student enrollment and community support. She had authored or co-authored several articles.

Ms. Proctor-Downing was a member of the Western Growers Association and National Arabian Association, among other organizations. Ms. Proctor-Downing received a bachelor's degree from New Mexico State University in vocational agriculture and received her master's degree from Arizona State University in Education Administration and Supervision emphasis in Leadership for Educational Entrepreneurs.

Pam Burns – Secretary (and Governing Board Member)

Pam Burns serves as Secretary of the Board and has served on the Board since its inception. Ms. Burns currently owns and operates Burns Pest Elimination. Prior to starting Burns Pest Elimination, Ms. Burns was co-owner of Arizona Marine and also started Rivera Boats, a boat manufacturing business. Ms. Burns holds a real estate brokers license and enjoys showing Arabian horses.

Irene V. Rassi – Vice President

Irene V. Rassi serves as Vice President of the Board and has served on the Board since April, 2012. Ms. Rassi is an experienced educator with 29 years in training, instruction, testing, evaluation, program development, and curriculum. Educational related experience from 1961-2000 includes teaching in Torrance California, Lynwood California and Tempe Elementary School District. Ms. Rassi received her bachelor's degree from California State University in Educational Leadership and her master's degree from Northern Arizona University.

Governing Board

The section that follows provides brief biographical information pertaining to the certain of the Borrower's current Governing Board members (information regarding Governing Board members who also serve on the Board is provided above).

Michael Larrabee – Member

Michael Larrabee serves as a member of the Governing Board and has served on the Governing Board since 2002. Mr. Larrabee is has been self-employed as a residential and commercial general contractor for more than twenty years. Mr. Larrabee serves as Board President for Arizona Ball Charter Schools and is also a board member for the Hearn Academy and Dobson Academy. Mr. Larrabee has attended Glendale Community College and Arizona State University studying business administration.

Linda McCormick – Member

Linda McCormick serves as a member of the Governing Board and has served on the Governing Board since 2006. Ms. McCormick has been employed as a teacher for the Pendergast School District since 1985 where she has taught fifth and sixth grades and is currently the instructor for that school's gifted program. Ms. McCormick received her teaching degree from Northern Arizona University and has a certification in general K-8 education and an endorsement for gifted education.

Kenneth Roberts – Member

Kenneth Roberts has served as a member of the Governing Board since August 2012. Dr. Roberts is retired from Maricopa Community Colleges as the Vice President of South Mountain Community College and also served as the Assistant Provost of Paradise Valley Community College. Dr. Robert's experience and knowledge has assisted the Borrower in continuing to build a strong relationship with the community college system. He received his Doctorate from Arizona State University in Instructional Design and his Master's from San Francisco University in Industrial/Organizational Psychology.

Administration

Listed below are key administrators of the Borrower, along with a brief description of the responsibilities of their respective positions and biographical information pertaining to each.

Linda Proctor-Downing – Executive Director

Linda Proctor-Downing is the Charter Founder and Executive Director of the Borrower. As such, she is responsible for overseeing all staff members and professional development; review of curricula and instruction; management of the schools inclusive of attendance, discipline, testing, counseling, vocational opportunities and all related activities. More detailed biographical information relating to Ms. Proctor-Downing can be found in the Board section above.

Suzanne Drakes – Assistant Executive Director

Suzanne Drakes is the Assistant Executive Director of the Borrower. She is responsible for coordinating operations of the schools and assisting in personnel selection. Her duties further include finance, audits, grant administration, No Child Left Behind compliance, Structured English Immersion compliance, Special Education Compliance and North Central Accreditation. Previously, Ms. Drakes worked as an operations manager and buyer for several corporations. Ms. Drakes serves as a North Central Accreditation (NCA) Quality Assurance Review Team Leader, assisting NCA to evaluate other schools on their accreditation status and determination. Ms. Drakes received her bachelor's degree from Arizona State University Agribusiness and her master's degree in Education from Northern Arizona University.

Dr. Linda Rosness – Assistant Superintendent

Dr. Linda Rosness is the Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and Student Services of the Borrower. In that capacity, she is responsible for all employee related issues, Dr. Rosness has worked in the education field for over 35 years. She has performed the roles of teacher, counselor, district level administrator and principal. Dr. Rosness received her Bachelor's Degree in Secondary Education in English from Arizona State University, master's degrees from Arizona State University in Education and Counseling and her Doctorate in Education from Arizona State University.

Dennis Gray- Director of Academic Services

Mr. Gray holds degrees from Canterbury (B.Sc.) and Northern Arizona (M.A.) He taught in New Zealand and the

United Kingdom prior to his career in education in the United States. Prior to joining AAEC in 2003, his positions included Head of School at Judson, an independent International Boarding and Day school. He has held leadership positions in education associations and has served on a number of committees evaluating school performance. Mr. Gray served as Principal of AAEC's Paradise Valley Campus for ten years before joining the District Office Staff in 2013. Since January 2016 he has been a member of the AAEC District Leadership Team, engaged in all aspects of the school's operation.

Daniel D. Bigler, CPA – Accountant

Dan Bigler is the Accountant of the Borrower. He is responsible for assisting the finance manager in the Borrower's fiscal operations, including budgeting, forecasting, accounting, and financial reporting. Mr. Bigler has worked in Arizona public school finance for 30 years, including serving as chief financial officer for three other charter school organizations. Mr. Bigler's experience also includes positions as an auditor and school finance specialist with the Arizona Department of Education, accounting supervisor for the Tempe Union High School District and consultant for ABS School Services. Mr. Bigler received a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting from Arizona State University and is a Certified Public Accountant in the State of Arizona.

Angie Madsen – Paradise Valley Campus Principal

Following a highly successful Principalship of a high school in North Dakota, Angie Madsen joined AAEC as the principal of the Paradise Valley Campus in 2016. Broad experience in all aspects of school operation, as well as leadership of a school through significant change and improvement, position Ms. Madsen to lead PV and its students to the next levels of growth and achievement. Ms. Madsen has a Bachelor's degree in Language Arts from Minot State, and a Master's in School Administration from the University of Phoenix.

Linda LaFontain – South Mountain Campus Principal

Linda LaFontain is the principal of the South Mountain Campus. Ms. LaFontain is responsible for academic advising, teaching classes, working with South Mountain Community College personnel, and ensuring the smooth running of the South Mountain Campus. Ms. LaFontain has been a professional educator for 39 years. She began her administrative career in 1989, and has been a principal at all public school levels and in two charter high schools before beginning at the South Mountain Campus. Ms. LaFontain taught English, Spanish and English for Foreign students for 16 years before moving into administration. Ms. LaFontain received her bachelor's degree and master's degree from Arizona State University.

Ray Gless – Red Mountain Campus Principal

Ray Gless has devoted three decades working in the many different avenues in the field of education. He has extensive experience in innovative learning environments at high school, community college and university levels and has developed curriculums at all levels and in different platforms. He has served on a number of advisory boards, committees, leadership and consultant positions at local, state and national levels while also serving as an educational lobbyist for Career and Technical Education at state and federal levels. Mr. Gless earned his Bachelor's degree in Agricultural Education at Utah State University and his Master's Degree in Educational Leadership at Northern Arizona University.

Dale Nicol – Estrella Mountain Campus Principal

Dale Nicol is a career educator, whose experiences include serving as an educational consultant, high school principal, high school assistant principal, athletic director, earth science teacher, life science teacher and P.E. teacher. Dale earned his Bachelor of Arts in education from Northwest Nazarene College and a Master of Arts in educational administration from the University of Phoenix. A long time Phoenix resident, Dale honed his skills as an

educational leader, administrator, professional development trainer and teacher throughout his 28 years in education. Dale has excellent oral and written communication skills. His passion continues to be watching the growth of students as they progress through school.

Patrick Wellert – Prescott Valley Campus Principal

Patrick Wellert, driven by the need he sees for quality leaders to assist students and teachers in accomplishing their goals, is in his 4th year as a principal. Mr. Wellert attended the University of Arizona where he earned his Bachelor's Degree in Agricultural Education, then taught Agricultural Education in Chino Valley, AZ. Further studies resulted in two Master's degrees: one in Educational Technology and another in Educational Leadership. In addition to leading the Prescott Valley campus, Mr. Wellert provides District leadership for AAEC's extensive CTE programs.